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APPLICATION NO).	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,736		09/26/2001	David C. Hovda	E-5-2	1485
21394	7590	01/10/2006		EXAMINER	
ARTHRO	CARE C	ORPORATION			
680 VAQUEROS AVENUE				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUNNYV	ALE, CA	94085-3523		ARTONII	FAFER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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09-963-736				
				EXAMINER
			ART UNIT	PAPER
			<u> </u>	20060105

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Commissioner for Patents

Response to Amendment

The reply filed on November 30, 2005 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): The amendment to claim 45 lacks clarity since a single deletion bracket appears at the end of the claim. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the abovementioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE** (1) **MONTH or THIRTY** (30) **DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lee S. Cohen whose telephone number is 571-272-4763. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lee S. Cohen

Primary Examiner Art Unit 3739

LSC January 5, 2006